1609/3614.

REPORT

OF THE

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

British Mineralogical Society.

LONDON, MAY 29, 1800.

"IT is now ſome months ſince public notice was given of the Inſtitution of the BRITISH MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY; one of the principal objects of which is the gratuitous Analyſis of ſuch of our Native Minerals, as may be ſent to the Society by Mine-Owners, or other perſons who are intereſted in the inquiry. The Society's firſt meetings were neceſſarily much occupied in eſtabliſhing arrangements for the moſt effectual attainment of its own deſigns, and thoſe of its Correſpondents. Both theſe objects have, we truſt, been ſatisfactorily provided for; and the number of Specimens ſent to the Society for Analyſis, evince at the ſame time the utility of the ſcheme and the public confidence.

"The Society conſiſts of a competent number of members in the habitual practice of chemical operations, each of whom undertakes an Analyſis in rotation, (aſſiſted in caſes of peculiar intricacy by a Select Committee), the reſult of which, after general approbation, is tranſmitted by the Secretary to the perſon who ſent the Specimen. Since however ſeveral of our Correſpondents, from inadvertence, have not complied with the conditions mentioned in the circular letter of the Society, we here repeat them, with the addition of ſome others, and beg to have it underſtood that no Analyſis will be undertaken where theſe are not complied with:

"1. The

" 1. The whole of each Specimen muſt be at leaſt four pounds weight, and in as few pieces as poſſible. The perſon who ſends the Specimens, if more than one, ſhould break a ſmall piece from each, taking care to reſerve and mark them with the ſame numbers as thoſe that he ſends to the Society; becauſe in the Analyſis returned to him, the different Specimens will be diſtinguiſhed by their numbers: the ſafeſt way of marking each will be to write the number on a ſlip of paper, and fix it on the Specimen with gum-water. Every piece muſt be wrapped in paper, and packed in a box with ſaw-duſt, addreſſed (carriage paid,) to Mr. W. H. PEPYS, Poultry, London.

" 2. A paper muſt accompany the Specimens, ſtating their provincial names, the name of the pariſh and county where they are found; the depth of the mine or quarry where they are procured; the general extent and bearing of the vein or ſtratum towards the points of the compaſs; and the method of procuring them, whether by blaſting or by the pick-axe, &c.

" 3. The Society alſo requeſts, that the Metallic Ores which may be ſent them for Analyſis, may be accompanied with ſpecimens of the gangue or matrix in which they are found, and of the ſuperincumbent ſtrata, with their reſpective depths and provincial appellations, according to the following Form*.

" Specimen No. 1, called by the Miners [*Steel-grained Potter's lead ore*] found at [ ] mine, in the pariſh of [ ] county of [ ]; [40] fathoms below the ſurface, in a [*regular vein from 2 to 24 inches acroſs*] lying [*N. W. and S. E.*] riſing to the [*N. W.*], procured by [*blaſting*]. The ore found mixed with [*Black-Jack* Specimen *No. 2, and Spar No. 3,*] in a [*Slate-rock*]. Depth of Strata cut through in ſinking the Mine, [*Soil 1 foot; gravel 5 feet No. 4; Rock 30 fathoms Nos. 5 and 6; Shale 2 fathoms No. 7; Slate-rock 7 fathoms No. 8*].

" The Members of the BRITISH MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY have in view, beſides the above, another object of perhaps ſtill greater general importance. In common with all other inquirers into this moſt intereſting department of Natural

* The blanks, and parts printed in *Italics*, to be occupied by their proper deſcription.

Hiſtory,

Hiſtory, they have regretted the formidable obſtacles to collecting accurate information in the Mining Diſtricts, originating from the vague and peculiar Terms in uſe among the Miners, and from the different ideas annexed to the ſame Terms in different parts of the country. They feel the impoſſibility of introducing a ſcientific Nomenclature into the Mines and Collieries, and in conſequence have arranged correſpondences in various parts, for the purpoſe of collecting materials towards a general explanatory Dictionary of all the Mining Terms made uſe of in the Britiſh Iſlands. The ſucceſs of this plan, it is obvious, depends eſſentially on the public concurrence; its advantage cannot be called in queſtion, and therefore the Society requeſts with confidence the aſſiſtance of thoſe Gentlemen who, from their local ſituation, or other circumſtances, are able to further its execution, and are willing that the whole Science of Mineralogy ſhould be cleared from that confuſion and myſtery in which it has been enveloped. Beſides liſts and explanations of Technical Terms; the Society wiſhes to be furniſhed with Specimens of ſuch Minerals as have received any names in the Mines and Collieries: without the poſſeſſion of Specimens it will be impoſſible to identify the ſubſtances ſo as to aſſign them their proper ſcientific appellations; and theſe being depoſited in the cabinet of the Society, will form a conſtant record and authority, to which the moſt liberal acceſs will at all times be allowed.

"The conſcioufneſs of contributing in their ſphere to the public good, and to the improvement of a favourite branch of Natural Science, is the ſole remuneration to which the Members of the Society look forward; and they will eſteem the time and expenſe employed in the Analyſis of Minerals amply repaid, if thoſe whom they have thus ſerved will exert their perſonal activity and influence among their workmen, in furthering the execution of the above deſign, by the communication of illuſtrative Specimens and explanatory liſts of Technical Terms.

"It is the intention of the Society to aſſociate as Correſponding Members a ſelect number of ſuch perſons, completely ſkilled in Mineralogy, as may be zealous to aſſiſt its views; and that the Proprietors of Mines, who have it much in their power to furniſh ſuch facts and ſpecimens as are of principal importance to the Society, ſhall be conſidered as eligible to the claſs of Correſponding Members; all of whom, though they are to be ſubject to no pecuniary contribution, ſhall be allowed free acceſs to the Meetings and to the Cabinet."

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